

Message Text

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71-60

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27124

LIMDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, PORG

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GOI PERMREP UNESCO ON
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. PERMREP ELIEZER YAPOU PAID CALL ON PERMDEL FOR
DISCUSSIONS ON GOI LETTER DG M'BOW REJECTING UNESCO
TEAM BEFORE GEN. CONF. YAPOU SAID THAT LETTER (SENT BY
SEPTEL) REPRESENTS BEST POSITION GOI ON SUBJECT AND
THAT NO YIELDING CAN BE EXPECTED. HE SAID THEY CON-
SIDER TO HAVE MADE MAJOR CONCESSION IN AGREEING TO ACCEPT
TEAM, ALBEIT AFTER GEN. CONF. YAPOU SAID GOI
WOULD ACCEPT VISIT OF ONE PERSON, AS PER NEXT TO LAST
PARA. OF LETTER, AND THAT WAS ALL.

2. IN RESPONSE, PERMREP NOTED THAT LANGUAGE OF PARA.
STATES THAT "SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE COULD OF COURSE,
BE A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE ORGANIZATION." IT CAN BE
INTERPRETED THAT WORD "COULD" IMPLIES THAT PERSON NEED
NOT BE AN OFFICIAL OF THE ORGANIZATION. YAPOU SAID
THIS INTERPRETATION WAS PROBABLY POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH HE
COULD NOT BE SURE. THE POINT BEING THAT M'BOW IS ADA-
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MANT THAT NO MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT BE SENT. THERE-

FORE, IN EFFECT, PARA COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT
GOI WOULD EXCEPT ONE PERSON NOT MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT.

3. YAPOU WAD ADAMANT THAT THIS WAS FINAL COMPROMISE OF
GOI AND HE FELT IT WOULD BE USELESS TO ATTEMPT TO APPLY
ANY PRESSURE. YAPOU, AFTER MANY DISCUSSIONS WITH NAJMAN,
IS WELL AWARE OF LIKELIHOOD DEBATE AT GEN. CONF. WILL
NOW BE ENTIRELY POLITICAL AND LEVERAGE OF DG M'BOW IS
GREATLY LESSENED. HE IS ALSO AWARE THAT DG MAY REACT
EMOTIONALLY UPON RECEIPT OF GOI LETTER.

4. AFTER SOME QUESTIONING AS TO WHY GOI OBJECTS TO TWO
PEOPLE COMING WHEN IT WOULD ACCEPT ONE, YAPOU SAID THAT
GIVEN THE UNREST IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IF IT BE-
CAME KNOWN THAT A "TEAM" WERE COMING FROM UNESCO,
DISSIDENTS MIGHT SEIZE ON THIS AS A CAUSE FOR SOME SORT
OF DEMONSTRATIONS.

5. PERMREP SUGGESTED EFFORT CONTINUE TO TRY AND GET
M'BOW TO ACCEPT THE SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WOULD BE
A CIVILIAN. ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP M'BOW SAVE FACE
AFTER SUCH LONG NEGOTIATIONS WILL CERTAINLY BE USEFUL
AT GEN. CONF. YAPOU DID NOT OBJECT TO CONTINUING THE
EFFORT, BUT EXPRESSED LITTLE OPTIMISM.

6. PERMDEL RECOMMENDS THAT MATTER BE DISCUSSED WITH
GOI AS WE ARE NOT SURE THAT POSITION IS ENTIRELY IN-
FLEXIBLE. GOI SHOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT M'BOW'S
CREDIBILITY WILL BE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY FAILURE ON
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND HE WILL BE LESS INCLINED TO BE
HELPFUL ON OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES. PERMDEL WILL CON-
TINUE TO WORK TO SMOOTH THE WATERS AND AT LEAST HAVE
SOME UNESCO PRESENCE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BEFORE
THE DEBATE IN THE GEN. CONF., BUT SITUATION IS CER-
TAINLY NOT OPTIMISTIC.

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